

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:02 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Raymond Chavarria
Simon George
William Marmion
Drew Satariano

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer
Sharon Gates, Administrative Analyst
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: David Dykstra, Mofatt & Nichol
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks
Susan Zoske

President Kozaites introduced the new Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Simon George, and asked him to say a few things about himself.

Commissioner George stated that he is on the faculty at California State University, Long Beach and that he has been there for nearly 40 years. He said that he teaches Physics.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to approve the November 18, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – DIANE LEWIS

President Kozaites stated that Diane Lewis is not here today so they would move on to the Employee of the Month presentations.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR DECEMBER

President Kozaites stated that Vice President Saltzgaver would present the Employees of the Month.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Meng Hak as the November Field Operations Employee of the Month, from Business Operations Bureau.

Ms. Jane Grobaty stated that Meng has been with the Department since 1998. She said that he was hired as a Summer Youth Employment Worker, then worked in the Reservations office during the summer on weekends, then moved into the Accounting Office and quickly became adept at Excel, FAMIS, Adpics and really helped them out. He is always willing to help, which includes taking over for the mail courier when she is on vacation and keeping the Department's web site up to date. She said that is has such a great attitude and is so willing to help out.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Millie Bugbee as the November Administration Employee of the Month, from Community Recreation Services Bureau.

Mr. Jesus Thillet said that she has worked for the Department for 19-1/2 years and has been his secretary for the last three years. He said that Millie covers much more than just secretarial duties. She was most recently helping out by teaching holiday arts and crafts to part-time staff. He said that she runs errands to various parks and does whatever it takes.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Sonny Seng as the December Lead Supervisory Employee of the Month, from Community Recreation Services Bureau.

Mr. Thillet stated that Sonny was unable to attend today, but he is also an exceptional employee. He took on a lot of responsibilities when he became supervisor of Houghton Park. Mr. Thillet said that Sonny is very helpful by being able work with short deadlines for events.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Denise Beck as the December Administrative Employee of the Month, from Maintenance Operations Bureau.

Mr. Jeff Edwards stated that Ms. Beck is amongst the most exceptional people in clerical support he has every worked with. She is able to handle rush work along with answering the busy telephones in the Marine Maintenance office.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Albert Drouin as the December Field Operations Employee of the Month, with Maintenance Operations Bureau.

Mr. Hurley Owens stated that from day one, Mr. Drouin has been a great addition to the crew. He said that Albert has a can-do attitude that is second to none and he has really earned Employee of the Month.

Mr. Hester stated that since Kevin Pregovisk left, the Department has been searching and recruiting for a replacement for the Manager of Business Operations Bureau. He said that the best person turned out being within the Department and they recently appointed Janet Day-Anselmo as the new Manager of Business Operations Bureau. Mr. Hester stated that Janet was most recently the Superintendent in the Department's Accounting Division and before that that she came to the Department from the City Auditor's Department.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-1201

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Kozaites stated that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Executive Committee did not meet.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee met a few weeks ago and they would be bringing a fee policy to the Commission at either the January or February meeting. He also stated that the report was included in the packet.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee did not meet this past month, but the report is included in the packet.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that a meeting was held yesterday with representatives from different divisions within the Department, explaining the steps when the comment cards are returned to the Department. He said that they came to the conclusion that they have a great tool for residents to communicate back to the Director. Commissioner Chavarria thanked Mr. Hester, because there is a lengthy process that the comment cards go through.

Commissioner Satariano stated that Commissioner Chavarria has done a great job in taking the Committee to the next level and they will now focus on the areas where the Department is not receiving an adequate amount of input and see about correcting that.

Mr. Hester stated it is important if a resident takes the time to fill out a comment card that the Department should respond to them. He said that it is a good tool to track where there are issues. He stated that the Department is looking at a potential citywide survey and that it should be done every few years for residential feedback.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not have a meeting but there has been an incredible amount of activity; two major grants to help purchase property, Chavez School has been dedicated, the El Dorado Regional Park improvement study to connect the Nature Center to the San Gabriel River has started, and the revised Sports Park EIR has just been released.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that a meeting was held. She said that there would be a committee created to look into the joint use agreement between the School District and the City.

President Kozaites stated he would like to appoint Commissioner George to the Committees that have vacancies. He appointed Commissioner George to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Customer Satisfaction Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee. President Kozaites stated that the

committees would be reorganized, based on input from the Commissioners, in July.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2004

Commissioner Marmion commended the Department for the good safety record and on receiving the Larry Larson Safety Award.

Mr. Hester mentioned that this is the second year in a row that the Department received this award.

Commissioner Marmion said he would like to mention that one of the best citizens passed away on Monday this past week, Thornton Ibbetson. He said that he worked with Mr. Ibbetson in a number of capacities and that he was a great supporter of the City, in particular the Rancho Los Cerritos. Commissioner Marmion requested that the meeting be adjourned in his memory and that a letter be sent to his wife, Harriett Ibbetson, sending her the Commission's condolences and notifying her that the meeting was adjourned in his memory.

Vice President Saltzgaver asked why the grass at Skylinks at Long Beach Golf Course is brown. Mr. Shippey stated that this is a hybrid Bermuda grass that was going into its dormancy and there was an early frost in October, which made it turn brown. He said that the grass is dormant and will come back. He also mentioned that staff does not want to overseed because that would create clumpy areas with the different types of grasses.

Vice President Saltzgaver requested that the Department post this explanation in the pro-shops, because he has received several inquiries about it.

President Kozaites stated that on December 9, the Los Angeles Dodgers came to Long Beach as representatives of major league baseball to donate \$20,000, through the Baseball Tomorrow fund, to the East Long Beach Little League to renovate their fields.

Vice President Saltzgaver wanted to correct information listed for the Turkey Trot. He said that there were approximately 1,400 attendees, not 100.

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council referred the matter of universally accessible playgrounds to the Parks and Recreation Commission, to hold community meetings, and to report back to the City Council. He distributed a draft schedule of meetings.

Mr. Hester stated that the Commission made reference to the Sports Park EIR, which was just distributed with a 60-day response time. He said that the

Department did receive a letter from Ann Cantrell and the Friends of Willow/Spring Gulch requesting to make a presentation at the January 20, 2005 meeting to discuss the proposed site.

Mr. Hester mentioned the Douglas Park discussion that took place and was approved by the City Council on December 14.

Mr. Eschen stated that perhaps the Capital Improvements Committee would like to meet before the January 20, 2005 Commission meeting and develop a recommendation. He said that the matter would come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission after the EIR is certified.

Commissioner Antenore stated that she would also like to attend the Capital Improvements Committee meeting.

Commissioner Antenore requested that Bob Lamond explain how the Partners of Parks is involved with the Trees on the Bay.

Mr. Lamond stated that the Trees on the Bay are supported by community organizations that raise the money and then pay the City, through Partners of Parks, a certain amount for each tree. He said that they are working on which sections should pay which portion of the electricity bills.

Commissioner Antenore stated that in addition to that, Bob Lamond and Betty Davenport put in a lot of work in getting the Lone Sailor organization going and helped with the funding for the bricks.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. RIVERLINK STUDY – LONG BEACH RIVERLINK PLAN

Mr. Hester stated that this is an extremely exciting project that was started a couple of years ago. He said that this is consistent with his vision for the Los Angeles River. He stated that the Los Angeles River, as it comes through Long Beach, has never received the level of attention and concern as the river area up north has. Mr. Hester stated that there is now a plan in place that has been discussed through a lot of community meetings and the Department would like

to bring it forth for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said that this is a planning tool or a vision for the River and is related to potential funding and redevelopment areas.

Mr. Eschen stated that this was a different type of consultant project, where a non-profit group, the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project, as the project lead coordinating a student project by the 606 Design Studio of the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture at California Polytechnic College at Pomona. He introduced Susan Zoske, with the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project, to present the project.

Ms. Zoske explained that RiverLink is the initial vision phase of a significant and ambitious urban park project by the City of Long Beach's Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. She stated that the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project was fortunate to have been selected to ensure creation of this vision. The overall purpose of the RiverLink is to create a continuous greenway along the east bank of the Los Angeles River. The second purpose is to connect city neighborhoods to this greenway. She said that the main motivation behind the plan was a growing population with insufficient passive and active recreation. Ms. Zoske went over the results of the community meetings. She then explained the RiverLink Plan.

Mr. Hester complemented Ms. Zoske and her group on her passion and efforts on this project. He stated that there are several projects that could be funded because of this report.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to adopt the RiverLink Plan as the RiverLink Executive Summary with the changes recommended by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING OFF-SITE MEETING LOCATIONS FOR SOME OF THE 2005 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Saltzgaver recommended that all the meetings be held at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, unless there is an overriding consideration to go off-site.

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Commission did discuss meeting at Chavez Park in May and then tour Chavez School gymnasium and then a walking tour of Victory Park.

Commissioner Antenore thought that the Commission also talked about a bus tour of all the new sites. Mr. Hester responded that staff is still planning on conducting the tour and wondered what day of the month would be good for the Commissioners. It was the consensus that Fridays would be a better day for most of the Commissioners.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Mr. Hester mentioned that the Mayor's State of the City Address would be held on January 11, 2005, and a table would be purchased for the Commission as a Charter Commission.

C. COMMISSIONERS

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2005, at the El Dorado Park West community center, in the Senior Center library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. in memory of Thornton Ibbetson.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine